

Gaetano, Carolyn

From: charles barnard jr <chbarnjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 7:32 PM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: HB 6998

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to any section of HB 6998, which would grab portions of publicly owned State Park and State Forest lands and convey them to individual towns. I am particularly appalled by Section 8 - the effort to grab land from the portion of the Centennial State Forest which is located within the town of Fairfield and convey that acreage to the town itself.

Fairfield's stated purpose is to have the land as "Open Space." However, the Centennial State Forest is already open space in the best sense of the word. It protects the land from development to a better degree than any town is likely to do. So why would Fairfield be seeking ownership for open space use when Centennial State Forest already provides quality open space? It makes no sense.

Both many groups and many individuals worked hard and long to protect the Aquarion watershed (formerly Bridgeport Hydraulic Company and then Kelda before Aquarion) acreage from development of any sort. The state government at that time was strongly in favor of its protection as well and supported the effort to protect it by issuing bonds to help pay for purchasing the land from Kelda/Aquarion. The Nature Conservancy also contributed at least 1 million dollars to the effort. Many individuals also contributed cash. So why should it be given away? This is an outrageous proposal.

Sincerely,
Charles T Barnard
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